Statement-V

The number of Sugar Mills which have not gone into production since 1994-95 to 1996-97 season.

Slate No.	No. of Factories
1. Punjab	1
2. U.P.	1
3. Gujarat	2
4. Maharashtra	2
5. Bihar	11
6. Orissa	1
7. Andhra Pradesh	4
8. Karnataka	1
9. Tamil Nadu	1
10. Kerala	2
All India	26

Measures to restructure the functioning of FCI

3719. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated measures to restructure the functioning of Food Corporation of India decentralising its operations and marketing strategies cutting substantially the operational costs;

(b) if so, the details of the changed role being assigned to FCI to make targeted PDS a success and ensure food safety and price stability for foodgrains; and

(c) whether Government are considering extension of import of wheat under OGL beyond 31st March, 1997 upward revision of wheat procurement prices, impose ban on inter-State movement of foodgrains and take appropriate measures for effective control on hoarding?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Wheat import'for Poor

3720. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether more wheat import is need to make available foodgrains to the poor at reasonable rates as domestic farmers did not sell Rabi yield; and

(b) whether adequate godowns ar rangement nas been made to stock the imported wheat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Government have already decided to import upto 4.00 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97 and 1997-98 to augment its availability in the country, and a quantity of 26.75 lakh tonnes has already been contracted for import. Government keep on reviewing the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool with reference to the production of foodgrains in the Central Pool with reference to the production of foodgrains, procurement trend, requirement for the Public Distribution System/ Other Welfare Schemes, open market prices to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in the country, (b) Yes, Sir.

Dwindling of wheat stock despite imports

3721. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat Stock has consider ably dwindled despite imports, threaten ing an unprecedented wheat shortage;

(b) if so, the extent to which wheat stock has been reduced on 1st April, 1997